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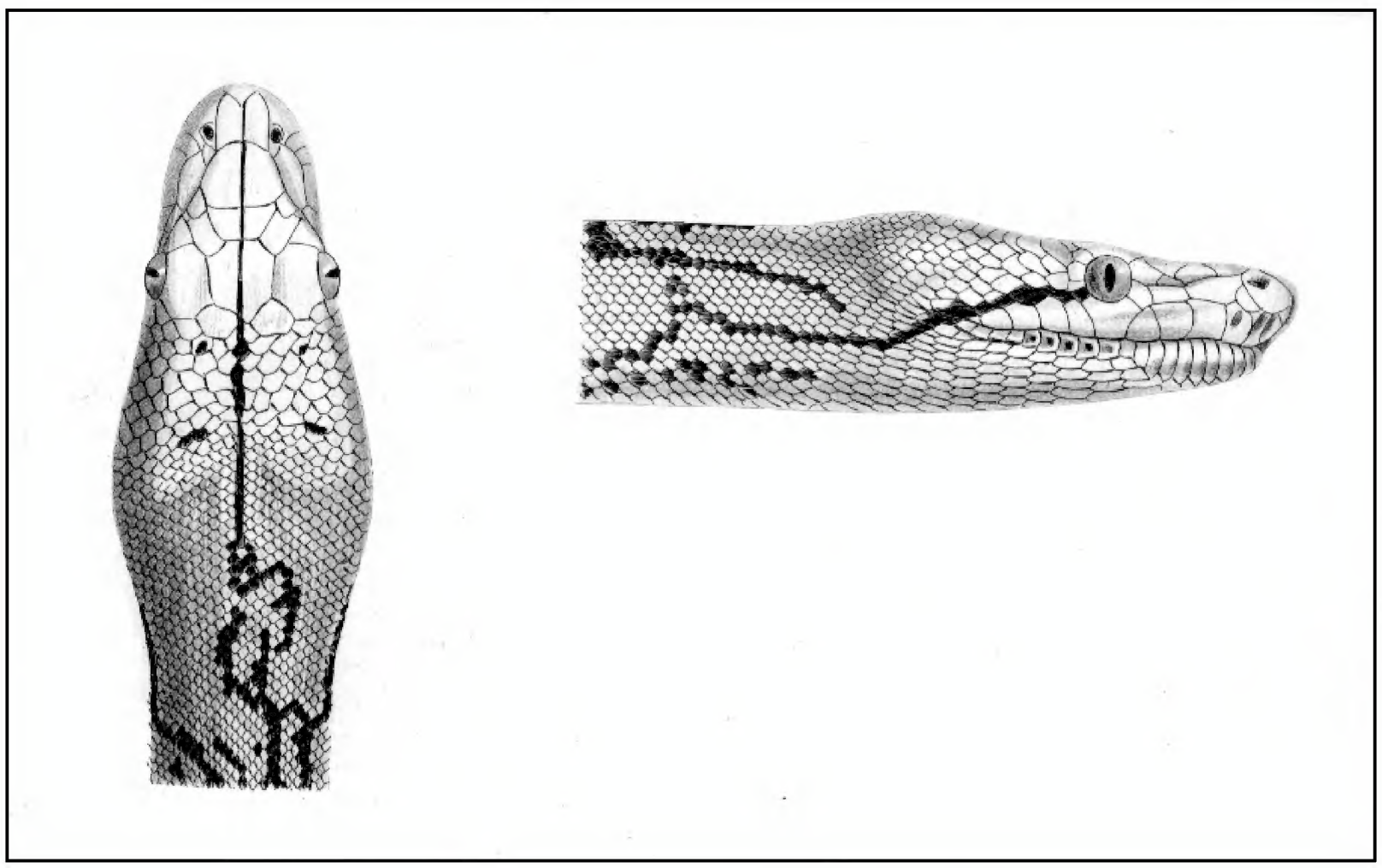

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An Annotated Checklist of the Amphibians and Reptiles of Wisconsin

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Introduction

Recently, techniques in molecular biology have opened new windows into our understanding of the evolutionary history and relationships of organisms, while advances in geology, paleontology, climatology and radiocarbon dating have greatly advanced our understanding of the biogeographical history of animals. These advances have resulted in a minor revolution in taxonomy and phylogeography, so that we now have a greatly improved understanding of the history of various lineages, their relationships, and the landscape and climatic factors which influenced the movements of animals since the last ice age (e.g., Placyk et al., 2007; Amato et al., 2008). These scientific advances are reflected in a rapidly changing taxonomy, with ongoing standardization of both scientific and common names. For some time, the three major herpetological societies, the American Society of Herpetologists and Ichthyologists, The Herpetologists' League, and the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles, have all endorsed a Committee on Standard English and Scientific Names, chaired by Brian I. Crother at Southeastern Louisiana University. This committee publishes an SSAR Herpetological Circular—*Scientific and Standard English Names of Amphibians and Reptiles of North America North of Mexico*—which is periodically updated. An alternative list, overseen by Joseph T. Collins at the Center for North American Herpetology, provides an interpretation based on Collins and Taggart (2002), in a series titled *Standard Common and Current Scientific Names for North American Amphibians, Turtles, Reptiles, and Crocodilians*, now in its fifth edition. An online version is revised periodically by J. T. Collins (Collins, 2008). Differences between these lists are addressed here, and I follow the latest Crother (2008) to bring a checklist of the amphibians and reptiles of Wisconsin up to date.

No species of amphibian or reptile is known to have disappeared from Wisconsin since settlement, although the abundance and range limits of many species have changed, in some cases considerably (Casper, 1996, 1998; Christoffel et al., 2000, 2001, 2002). While the species present in Wisconsin at settlement have not changed, their names often have (both scientific and common), and in some cases their taxonomic status as species or subspecies. Vogt (1981) reviews the early history of Wisconsin herpetology checklists. The first was prepared by Increase A. Lapham in 1852 (Lapham, 1852), followed by Hoy's 1883 Catalogue of the Cold-Blooded Vertebrates of Wisconsin (Hoy, 1883). Several species were missing from these early efforts, or erroneously reported, but subsequent workers filled in the gaps and made ongoing corrections to all or some groups, chronologically as follows: Higley (1889), Rose (1922), Pope and Dickinson (1928), Flaig (1942), Dickinson (1949, 1965), Briggs (1975), Vogt (1981), Sheldon (1981), Craven and Knudsen (1982), Sheldon and Nedrelo (1986), Sheldon (1991), Watermolen (1995), Casper (1996), Watermolen and Gilbertson (1996), Harding (1997), Casper (1998), Christoffel, Hay and Ramirez (2000), Christoffel, Hay and Wolfgram (2001), Watermolen and Murrell (2001), Christoffel, Hay and Monroe (2002), Parmalee, Knutson and Lyon (2002), and Tekiela (2004). The current list contains 54 species: 12 frogs and toads, 7 salamanders, 4 lizards, 20 snakes and 11 turtles.

Checklist of the Amphibians and Reptiles of Wisconsin

Anura—Frogs and Toads (12 species)

Acris Duméril and Bibron, 1841—CRICKET FROGS
- *A. crepitans* Baird, 1854—Northern Cricket Frog
  - *A. c. crepitans* Baird, 1854—Eastern Cricket Frog. The distinctiveness of *A. c. blanchardi* Harper, 1947, from *A. c. crepitans* was rejected by McCallum and Trauth (2006). Collins (2008) still recognizes *A. c. blanchardi* Harper, 1947, Blanchard's Cricket Frog.

Anaxyrus Tschudi, 1845—NORTH AMERICAN TOADS
This genus of strictly North American toads was removed from a paraphyletic "*Bufo*" by Frost et al. (2006). Collins (2008) still uses *Bufo* Laurenti, 1768.
- *A. americanus* (Holbrook, 1836)—American Toad
  - *A. a. americanus (*Holbrook, 1836)—Eastern American Toad

Hyla Laurenti, 1768—HOLARCTIC TREEFROGS
- *H. chrysoscelis* Cope, 1880—Cope's Gray Treefrog
- *H. versicolor* LeConte, 1825—Gray Treefrog

Lithobates Fitzinger, 1843—AMERICAN WATER FROGS
This taxon of North, Central, and South American frogs was recently removed from the large and predominantly Eurasian genus *Rana* (Hillis and Wilcox, 2005; Frost et al., 2006). Collins (2008) still uses *Rana* Linnaeus, 1758, for the Wisconsin species in this group.
- *L. catesbeianus* (Shaw, 1802)—American Bullfrog. Collins (2008) uses *Rana catesbeiana* (Shaw, 1802) Bullfrog.
- *L. clamitans* (Latreille, 1801)—Green Frog
  - *L. c. melanota* (Rafinesque, 1820)—Northern Green Frog. Collins (2008) uses *Rana clamitans melanota* (Rafinesque, 1820) Green Frog.
- *L. palustris* (LeConte, 1825)—Pickerel Frog
- *L. pipiens* (Schreber, 1782)—Northern Leopard Frog
- *L. septentrionalis* (Baird, 1854)—Mink Frog
- *L. sylvaticus* (LeConte, 1825)—Wood Frog. Collins (2008) uses *Rana sylvatica* Le Conte, 1825, Wood Frog.

Pseudacris Fitzinger, 1843—CHORUS FROGS
Recently reviewed by Lemmon et al. (2007).
- *P. crucifer* (Wied-Neuwied, 1838)—Spring Peeper. Subspecies were suppressed by Moriarty and Cannatella (2004). Collins (2008) still recognizes *P. c. crucifer* (Wied-Neuwied,

1838) Northern Spring Peeper, the former subspecies occupying Wisconsin.

P. maculata (Agassiz, 1850)—Boreal Chorus Frog. Prior to 1990 Wisconsin chorus frogs were thought to be comprised of two subspecies: *P. triseriata maculata* in the northwest, and *P. t. triseriata* occupying the rest of the state, with a possible introgression zone where they met (see Casper, 1996). Platz (1989) first proposed that *P. t. maculata* be elevated to specific status, and this was generally accepted by the late 1990s, with mounting morphological and molecular evidence. Recently, Lemmon et al. (2007) provide a phylogeny-based delimitation of ranges for this group, designating all chorus frogs in Wisconsin as belonging to *P. maculata*. Therefore, at this time *P. triseriata* (Wied-Neuwied, 1838), the Western Chorus Frog, is no longer considered to be part of the Wisconsin checklist.

Caudata—Salamanders (7 species)

Ambystoma Tschudi, 1838—MOLE SALAMANDERS

A. laterale Hallowell, 1856—Blue-spotted Salamander. Crother (2008) and Collins (2008) recognize unisexual polyploids and hybrid diploids within the parental species *A. laterale* and *A. jeffersonianum*. Previously one of these triploid forms in Wisconsin had been considered a species (*A. tremblayi*).

A. maculatum (Shaw, 1802)—Spotted Salamander

A. tigrinum (Green, 1825)—Eastern Tiger Salamander. Eastern and western tiger salamanders are now considered distinct species (see discussion in Crother, 2008).

Hemidactylium Tschudi, 1838—FOUR-TOED SALAMANDERS

H. scutatum (Temminck and Schlegel in Von Siebold, 1838) —Four-toed Salamander

Necturus Rafinesque, 1819—WATERDOGS and MUDPUPPIES

N. maculosus (Rafinesque, 1818)—Mudpuppy

N. m. maculosus (Rafinesque, 1818)—Common Mudpuppy. Collins (2008) treats the two subspecies for *N. maculosus* listed in Crother (2008) as full species: *N. maculosus* and *N. louisianensis*.

Notophthalmus Rafinesque, 1820—EASTERN NEWTS

N. viridescens (Rafinesque, 1820)—Eastern Newt

N. v. louisianensis Wolterstorff, 1914—Central Newt

Plethodon Tschudi, 1838—WOODLAND SALAMANDERS

P. cinereus (Green, 1818)—Eastern Red-backed Salamander. Collins (2008) uses Northern Redback Salamander as a common name.

Squamata—Lizards (4 species)

Aspidoscelis Fitzinger, 1843—WHIPTAILS

This North American taxon was recently removed from the genus *Cnemidophorus* (Reeder et al., 2002). Collins (2008) still uses *Cnemidophorus* Wagler, 1830, for the Wisconsin species.

A. sexlineata (Linnaeus, 1766)—Six-lined Racerunner. Collins (2008) still uses *Cnemidophorus sexlineatus*.

*A. s. viridis (*Lowe, 1966)—Prairie Racerunner. Collins (2008) still uses *Cnemidophorus sexlineatus viridis*.

Ophisaurus Daudin, 1803—GLASS LIZARDS

O. attenuatus Cope, 1880—Slender Glass Lizard

O. a. attenuatus Cope, 1880—Western Slender Glass Lizard

Plestiodon Duméril and Bibron, 1839—TOOTHY SKINKS

Brandley et al. (2005) recently resurrected the genus *Plestiodon* for all of the North American species north of Mexico formerly included in the genus *Eumeces* (see also Griffith, 1991; Griffith et al., 2000; Schmitz et al., 2004). Collins (2008) still uses *Eumeces* Wiegmann, 1834, for the Wisconsin species.

P. fasciatus (Linnaeus, 1758)—Common Five-lined Skink. Collins (2008) uses simply Five-lined Skink as a common name.

P. septentrionalis (Baird, 1859 "1858")—Prairie Skink

P. s. septentrionalis (Baird, 1859)—Northern Prairie Skink. Collins (2008) considers this taxon a full species *Eumeces septentrionalis* (Baird, 1858) Northern Prairie Skink.

Squamata—Snakes (20 species)

Carphophis Gervais, 1843—NORTH AMERICAN *WORM-SNAKES*

C. vermis (Kennicott, 1859)—Western Wormsnake. Collins (2008) uses Western Worm Snake for a common name.

Coluber Linnaeus, 1758—NORTH AMERICAN RACERS, COACHWHIPS AND WHIPSNAKES

The genus *Coluber* is now restricted to New World species (Nagy et al., 2004).

C. constrictor Linnaeus, 1758—North American Racer. Collins (2008) uses the common name Eastern Racer. The assignment of subspecies to Wisconsin populations remains unclear, but most likely populations along the Mississippi and Wisconsin rivers belong to *C. c. flaviventris*, while those in southeastern and south-central Wisconsin may be *C. c. foxii* (Casper, 1996).

C. c. flaviventris Say, 1823—Eastern Yellow-bellied Racer. Collins (2008) uses the common name Yellow-belly Racer.

C. c. foxii (Baird and Girard, 1853)—Blue Racer. Collins (2008) does not recognize *C. c. foxii*.

Crotalus Linnaeus, 1758—RATTLESNAKES

C. horridus Linnaeus, 1758—Timber Rattlesnake

Diadophis Baird and Girard, 1853—RING-NECKED SNAKES

D. punctatus (Linnaeus, 1766)—Ring-necked Snake. Collins (2008) uses the common name Ringneck Snake.

D. p. arnyi Kennicott, 1859—Prairie Ring-necked Snake. Collins (2008) uses the common name Prairie Ringneck Snake.

D. p. edwardsii (Merrem, 1820)—Northern Ring-necked Snake. Collins (2008) uses the common name Northern Ringneck Snake.

Heterodon Latreille, 1801—NORTH AMERICAN HOG-NOSED SNAKES

H. platirhinos Latreille, 1801—Eastern Hog-nosed Snake. Collins (2008) uses Eastern Hognose Snake for a common name.

Lampropeltis Fitzinger, 1843—KINGSNAKES

L. triangulum (Lacépède, 1789)—Milksnake. Collins (2008) uses Milk Snake for a common name.

L. t. triangulum (Lacépède, 1789)—Eastern Milksnake. Collins (2008) uses Eastern Milk Snake for a common name.

Nerodia Baird and Girard, 1853—NORTH AMERICAN WATERSNAKES

N. sipedon (Linnaeus, 1758)—Northern Watersnake. Collins (2008) uses Northern Water Snake for a common name.

N. s. sipedon (Linnaeus, 1758)—Common Watersnake. Collins (2008) uses Northern Water Snake for a common name.

Opheodrys Fitzinger, 1843—GREENSNAKES

O. vernalis (Harlan, 1827)—Smooth Greensnake. Collins (2008) uses *Liochlorophis vernalis* (Harlan, 1827) Smooth Green Snake. Crother (2008) rejects the use of *Liochlorophis* for this genus.

Pantherophis Fitzinger, 1833—RATSNAKES

The genus *Elaphe* is now divided into eight genera, with *Pantherophis* resurrected for most North American species (Utiger et al., 2002). Collins (2008) still uses *Elaphe* for the Wisconsin species.

P. spiloides (Duméril, Bibron and Duméril, 1854)—Gray Ratsnake. The former *E. obsoleta* has been divided into three species (Burbrink et al., 2000; Burbrink, 2001), of which *E. spiloides* is the most likely clade occupying Wisconsin. Collins (2008) recognizes *Elaphe spiloides* and uses Midland Rat Snake as a common name.

P. vulpinus (Baird and Girard, 1853)—Western Foxsnake. In accepting elevation of the former eastern subspecies *gloydi* to specific status, Crother (2008) changed the specific name for the western form to *vulpinus*, while Collins (2008) retains *Elaphe vulpina* (Baird and Girard, 1853) Western Fox Snake for the western form occupying Wisconsin.

Pituophis Holbrook, 1842—BULLSNAKES, PINESNAKES AND GOPHERSNAKES

P. catenifer (Blainville, 1835)—Gophersnake. Collins (2008) uses Gopher Snake for a common name.

P. c. sayi (Schlegel, 1837)—Bullsnake

Regina Baird and Girard, 1853—CRAYFISH SNAKES

R. septemvittata (Say, 1825)—Queensnake. Collins (2008) uses Queen Snake for a common name.

Sistrurus Garman, 1884—MASSASAUGA AND PYGMY RATTLESNAKES

S. catenatus (Rafinesque, 1818)—Massasauga

S. c. catenatus (Rafinesque, 1818)—Eastern Massasauga

Storeria Baird and Girard, 1853—NORTH AMERICAN BROWNSNAKES

S. dekayi (Holbrook, 1836)—DeKay's Brownsnake. Collins (2008) uses Brown Snake for a common name.

S. d. texana Trapido, 1944—Texas Brownsnake. Collins (2008) uses Texas Brown Snake for a common name.

S. d. wrightorum Trapido, 1944—Midland Brownsnake. Collins (2008) uses Midland Brown Snake for a common name.

S. occipitomaculata (Storer, 1839)—Red-bellied Snake. Collins (2008) uses Redbelly Snake for a common name.

S. o. occipitomaculata (Storer, 1839)—Northern Red-bellied Snake. Collins (2008) uses Northern Redbelly Snake for a common name.

Thamnophis Fitzinger, 1843—NORTH AMERICAN GARTER-SNAKES

Collins (2008) uses Garter Snake and Ribbon Snake throughout for common names of these species.

T. butleri (Cope, 1889)—Butler's Gartersnake

T. proximus (Say, 1823)—Western Ribbonsnake

T. p. proximus (Say, 1823)—Orange-striped Ribbonsnake. Collins (2008) uses Western Ribbon Snake for a common name.

T. radix (Baird and Girard, 1853)—Plains Gartersnake. Note that Rossman et al. (1996) suppressed the former subspecies of *T. radix*, which still appear in many field guides.

T. sauritus (Linnaeus, 1766)—Eastern Ribbonsnake

T. sauritus septentrionalis Rossman, 1963—Northern Ribbonsnake

T. sirtalis (Linnaeus, 1758)—Common Gartersnake. The subspecies of this widespread taxon likely require revision, and may change in the future.

T. s. parietalis (Say, 1823)—Red-sided Gartersnake

T. s. semifasciatus Cope, 1892—Chicago Gartersnake. Collins (2008) does not recognize this subspecies.

T. s. sirtalis (Linnaeus, 1758)—Eastern Gartersnake

Testudines—Turtles (11 species)

Apalone Rafinesque, 1832—NORTH AMERICAN SOFT-SHELLS

A. mutica (Lesueur, 1827)—Smooth Softshell

A. m. mutica (Lesueur, 1827)—Midland Smooth Softshell

A. spinifera (Lesueur, 1827)—Spiny Softshell

A. s. hartwegi (Conant and Goin, 1948)—Western Spiny Softshell

A. s. spinifera (Lesueur, 1827)—Eastern Spiny Softshell

Chelydra Schweigger, 1812—SNAPPING TURTLES

C. serpentina (Linnaeus, 1758)—Snapping Turtle. Collins (2008) uses Common Snapping Turtle for a common name.

C. s. serpentina (Linnaeus, 1758)—Eastern Snapping Turtle. Collins (2008) uses Common Snapping Turtle for a common name.

Chrysemys Gray, 1844—PAINTED TURTLES

C. picta (Schneider, 1783)—Painted Turtle

C. p. bellii (Gray, 1831)—Western Painted Turtle

C. p. marginata Agassiz, 1857—Midland Painted Turtle

Emydoidea Gray, 1870—BLANDING'S TURTLES

E. blandingii (Holbrook, 1838)—Blanding's Turtle

Glyptemys Agassiz, 1857—SCULPTED TURTLES

Two species formerly in the genus *Clemmys* (*insculpta* and *muhlenbergii*) are now placed into *Glyptemys* (see discussion in Crother, 2008).

G. insculpta (LeConte, 1830)—Wood Turtle

Graptemys Agassiz, 1857—MAP TURTLES

G. geographica (LeSueur, 1817)—Northern Map Turtle. Collins (2008) uses Common Map Turtle for a common name.

G. ouachitensis Cagle, 1953—Ouachita Map Turtle

G. o. ouachitensis Cagle, 1953—Ouachita Map Turtle

G. pseudogeographica (Gray, 1831)—False Map Turtle

G. p. pseudogeographica (Gray, 1831)—False Map Turtle.

Sternotherus Gray, 1825—MUSK TURTLES

S. odoratus (Latreille, 1801)—Eastern Musk Turtle. The more colorful name Stinkpot has fallen out of use. Collins (2008) uses Common Musk Turtle as a common name.

Terrapene Merrem, 1820—AMERICAN BOX TURTLES

T. ornata (Agassiz, 1857)—Ornate Box Turtle

T. o. ornata (Agassiz, 1857)—Ornate Box Turtle.

Species that may occur in Wisconsin based on a single record

Squamata—Snakes

Heterodon Latreille, 1801—NORTH AMERICAN HOG-NOSED SNAKES

H. nasicus Baird and Gerard, 1852—Plains Hog-nosed Snake. There is a single known record for Wisconsin from 1946, and a population may yet be discovered in prairies along the Mississippi River (Casper, 1996). Collins (2008) uses the common name Plains Hognose Snake for this taxon, and still considers it a subspecies of *H. nasicus*, whereas Crother (2008) accepts the elevation of the former three subspecies to full species status.

Virginia Baird and Gerard, 1853—NORTH AMERICAN EARTHSNAKES

V. valeriae Baird and Gerard, 1853—Smooth Earthsnake. Casper (1996) discusses the single known Wisconsin record, possibly a displaced individual. Collins (2008) uses the common name Smooth Earth Snake.

Potentially occurring species not yet recorded in Wisconsin

Anura—Frogs and Toads

Anaxyrus Tschudi, 1845—NORTH AMERICAN TOADS

A. fowleri (Hinckley, 1882)—Fowler's Toad. This species ranges close to the extreme southeastern Wisconsin state line. Collins (2008) still uses the genus *Bufo*.

Testudines—Turtles

Terrapene Merrem, 1820—AMERICAN BOX TURTLES

T. carolina (Linnaeus, 1758)—Eastern Box Turtle

T. c. carolina (Linnaeus, 1758)—Eastern Box Turtle. A common species in the pet trade, occasional observational records from east central Wisconsin suggest that introduced individuals or populations may exist. Until specimens are obtained and origins derived, this species remains hypothetical.

Trachemys Agassiz, 1857—SLIDERS

T. scripta (Schoepff, 1792)—Pond Slider.

T. s. elegans (Wied-Neuwied, 1838)—Red-eared Slider. This species is common in the pet trade, and has been establishing itself in many United States and foreign locations outside of its natural range. Ongoing climate change may make its eventual establishment in Wisconsin inevitable, most likely from natural populations in Illinois through the Fox and/or Des Plaines rivers.

Species which do not occur in Wisconsin, yet are often reported by the general public

Obviously exotic species occasionally turn up in summer, such as alligators (*Alligator mississippiensis*) and caimans (*Caiman crocodilus*). In addition, local reports of Copperheads (*Agkistrodon contortrix*), Cottonmouths or "Water Moccasins", (*Agkistrodon piscivorus*) are common, resulting from misidentifications of Western Foxsnakes as Copperheads, and Common Watersnakes as Cottonmouths or Water Moccasins.

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Appendix: List of the Amphibians and Reptiles of Wisconsin with Status Codes

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) status codes (accessed March 2, 2008, from http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/): END = Endangered; THR = Threatened; SC = Special Concern. WDNR and federal regulations regarding Special Concern species range from full protection to no protection. The current categories and their respective level of protection are SC/P = fully protected; SC/N = no laws regulating use, possession, or harvesting; SC/H = take regulated by establishment of open closed seasons. Additional regulations and permit requirements may apply—check with the WDNR for current conditions.

Anura—Frogs and Toads (12 species)

Acris crepitans crepitans—Eastern Cricket Frog (END)
Anaxyrus americanus americanus—Eastern American Toad
Hyla chrysoscelis—Cope's Gray Treefrog
Hyla versicolor—Gray Treefrog
Lithobates catesbeianus—American Bullfrog (SC/H)
Lithobates clamitans melanota—Northern Green Frog
Lithobates palustris—Pickerel Frog (SC/H)
Lithobates pipiens—Northern Leopard Frog
Lithobates septentrionalis—Mink Frog (SC/H)
Lithobates sylvaticus—Wood Frog
Pseudacris crucifer—Spring Peeper
Pseudacris maculata—Boreal Chorus Frog (SC/H)

Caudata—Salamanders (7 species)

Ambystoma laterale—Blue-spotted Salamander
Ambystoma maculatum—Spotted Salamander
Ambystoma tigrinum—Eastern Tiger Salamander
Hemidactylium scutatum—Four-toed Salamander (SC/H)
Necturus maculosus maculosus—Common Mudpuppy (SC/H)
Notophthalmus viridescens louisianensis—Central Newt
Plethodon cinereus—Eastern Red-backed Salamander

Squamata—Lizards (4 species)

Aspidoscelis sexlineata viridis—Prairie Racerunner (SC/N)
Ophisaurus attenuatus attenuatus—Western Slender Glass Lizard (END)
Plestiodon fasciatus—Common Five-lined Skink
Plestiodon septentrionalis septentrionalis—Northern Prairie Skink (SC/N)

Squamata—Snakes (20 species)

Carphophis vermis—Western Wormsnake (SC/H)
Coluber constrictor flaviventris—Eastern Yellow-bellied Racer (SC/P)
Coluber constrictor foxii—Blue Racer (SC/P)
Crotalus horridus—Timber Rattlesnake (SC/H)
Diadophis punctatus arnyi—Prairie Ring-necked Snake (SC/H)
Diadophis punctatus edwardsii—Northern Ring-necked Snake (SC/H)
Heterodon platirhinos—Eastern Hog-nosed Snake
Lampropeltis triangulum triangulum—Eastern Milksnake
Nerodia sipedon sipedon—Common Watersnake
Opheodrys vernalis—Smooth Greensnake
Pantherophis spiloides—Gray Ratsnake (SC/P)
Pantherophis vulpinus—Western Foxsnake
Pituophis catenifer sayi—Bullsnake (SC/N)
Regina septemvittata—Queensnake (END)
Sistrurus catenatus catenatus—Eastern Massasauga (END)
Storeria dekayi texana—Texas Brownsnake
Storeria dekayi wrightorum—Midland Brownsnake
Storeria occipitomaculata occipitomaculata—Northern Red-bellied Snake
Thamnophis butleri—Butler's Gartersnake (THR)
Thamnophis proximus proximus—Orange-striped Ribbonsnake (END)
Thamnophis radix—Plains Gartersnake (SC/P)
Thamnophis sauritus septentrionalis—Northern Ribbonsnake (END)
Thamnophis sirtalis parietalis—Red-sided Gartersnake
Thamnophis sirtalis semifasciatus—Chicago Gartersnake
Thamnophis sirtalis sirtalis—Eastern Gartersnake

Testudines—Turtles (11 species)

Apalone mutica mutica—Midland Smooth Softshell (SC/H)
Apalone spinifera hartwegi—Western Spiny Softshell
Apalone spinifera spinifera—Eastern Spiny Softshell
Chelydra serpentina serpentina—Eastern Snapping Turtle
Chrysemys picta bellii—Western Painted Turtle
Chrysemys picta marginata—Midland Painted Turtle
Emydoidea blandingii—Blanding's Turtle (THR)
Glyptemys insculpta—Wood Turtle (THR)
Graptemys geographica—Northern Map Turtle
Graptemys ouachitensis ouachitensis—Ouachita Map Turtle
Graptemys pseudogeographica pseudogeographica—False Map Turtle (SC/H)
Sternotherus odoratus—Eastern Musk Turtle
Terrapene ornata ornata—Ornate Box Turtle (END)

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Range Extensions and New Island Records for *Ramphotyphlops braminus* (Serpentes: Typhlopidae)

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Abstract

New but unpublished distribution records for *Ramphotyphlops braminus* are reviewed. They are mainly insular and based on museum collection specimens.

Introduction

Ramphotyphlops braminus (Daudin, 1803) is one of the smallest snakes in the world, averaging about 130 mm in total length. It is also the only known unisexual snake species, reproducing parthenogenetically (Wynn et al., 1987; Ota et al., 1991). It is totally harmless. It feeds mainly upon ants and termites and often lives among the root masses of cultivated and ornamental plants. It also follows ant and termite tunnels into trees, living and dead, and their trunks and branches. As a result of being tiny, partheogenetic, and occupying the above habitats, *R. braminus* has been able colonize the world from its native Sri Lanka (or southern India). It occurs nearly everywhere in tropical and subtropical Asia and from there has invaded Africa, Australia, and the Americas (Hahn, 1980; McDiarmid et al., 1999).

In preparing a review of the species I have come across a number of new localities for *Ramphotyphlops braminus,* based upon museum vouchers, that I wish to get into the literature. Most of the records are new island citations and the new locality is highlighted in boldface print. Museum acronyms include the following: BPBM (Bernice P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu), CAS (California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco), CMNH (Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Pittsburgh), MCZ (Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, Cambridge), TCWC (Texas Cooperative Wildlife Collection, Texas A & M University, College Station), and USNM (Smithsonian Institution, Washington).

New Distribution Records

BELAU: Palau Isands: **Oreor Island**: near town of Koror, collected by R. Owen, 1957 (USNM 207023, 207025). New insular record.

INDIA: Kerala: **Cochin Willingdon Island** in Arabian Sea, collected by F. B. Steiner, 1995 (CAS 207049). New insular record.

MARSHALL ISLANDS: Kwajalein Atoll: **Kwajalein Island** (USNM 331430). New insular record.

MASCARENES: Mauritius: **Round Island**: collected by K. Buchanan, 1976 (USNM 541261-62). New insular record.

MASCARENES: Mauritius: **Ile aux Aigrettes**: Grand Port, collected by G. Rodda 11-19 December 1999 (USNM 565094-96). New insular record.

MIDWAY ATOLL: **Sand Island**: Roosevelt at Halsey Drive, collected by G. M. Nishida, 1998 (BPBM 13734-35). New insular record.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS: N Luzon: Cagayan Valley Region: Cagayan Province: Babuyan Islands: **Dalupiri Island**: near village just south of midpoint on east coast, collected by R. Crombie, L. Goldsmith and locals under trash around barrio, 18-20 March 1990 (USNM 508382-85). New insular record.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS: N Luzon: Cagayan Valley Region: Cagayan Province: Babuyan Islands: **Barit Island** (islet off W end of Fuga Island): Gagaco Beach, collected by R. Crombie, L. Goldsmith & C. A. Ross, 5 March 1990 (USNM 508320-24). New insular record.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS: N Luzon: Cagayan Valley Region: Cagayan Province: Babuyan Islands: **Maybag Island** (islet off W end of Fuga island): SE corner, collected by R. Crombie & L. Goldsmith, 5-10 March 1990 (USNM 508196-97). New insular record.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS: N Luzon: Cagayan Valley Region: Batanes Province: Batan Islands: **Batan Island**: Sabtang Municipality: near airstrip 1.5 km N Basco, collected by C. A. Ross & A. Alcala, 4 June 1985 (USNM 266606-08); 3 km ENE Basco on W slope of Mt. Iraya, 150 m, collected by C. A. Ross & R. Kennedy, 7 June 1985 (CAS 266609); Itbud, abandoned naval station, collected by A. Alcala, 9 June 1985 (CAS 266610-12). New insular record.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS: N Luzon: Cagayan Valley Region: Batanes Province: Batan Islands: **Ibahos Island**: Sabtang Municipality: collected by R. Kennedy & F. Thompson, 5 June 1985 (USNM 266640). New insular record.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS: S Luzon: Calabarzon Region: Quezon Province: **Polillo Island**, collected by E. H. Taylor, 1920 (CAS 62428-29). New insular record.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS: Mimaropa Region: Marinduque Province: **Marinduque Island**: Barangay Amoingon: Boac, collected by D. E. Hahn, 1971 (CMNH 90422); Barangay Amoingon: Boac, collected by R. M. Lumawig, 1972 (CMNH 90423-31, 90433-526, 90529-37, 45). New insular record.
PHILIPPINE ISLANDS: Mimaropa Region: Romblon Province: **Sibuyan Island**: San Fernando Municipality: Taclobo Barangay: Taclobo Barrio: Cantingas River, 0-50 ft., collected by L. C. Alcala and others, 1972 (CAS 169880). New insular record.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS: Bicol Region: Masbate Province:

Masbate Island, collected by E. H. Taylor, 1920 (MCZ 25582). New insular record.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS: Bicol Region: Catanduanes Province: **Catanduanes Island**: Viga Municipality: 2 km S Viga, collected by locals, 21 August 1990 (USNM 319052); Bagamanok Municipality: between Bagamanok and Panganiban, collected by locals, 21 August 1990 (USNM 319053); Virac Municipality: Barrio Simamla, collected by locals, 23 August 1990 (USNM 319054-58). New insular record.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS: Negros: Western Visayas Region: Negros Occidental: **Agutayan Island** off Bulata, collected by A. C. Alcala and others, 1964 (CAS 140087). New insular record.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS: E Leyte: Western Visayas Region: Guimaras Province: Guimaras Subprovince: **Panubolon Island**: Nueva Valencia Municipality: Iloilo, 0-50 ft., collected by L. C. Alcala and others, 1968 (CAS 124503). New insular record.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS: Negros: Central Visayas Region: Negros Oriental: **Apo Island**: Dauin Municipality: Talaytay, 350 ft., collected by A. C. Alcala and others, 1966 (CAS-SU 26459). New insular record.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS: Cebu: Central Visayas Region: Cebu Province: **Bantayan Island**: Bantayan Municipality: Tamiao, 7 km E Bantayan town, 0-40 ft., collected by L. C. Alcala and others, 1968 (CAS 125069). New insular record.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS: Cebu: Central Visayas Region: Cebu Province: **Mactan Island**: Cordova Municipality: Gabi, sea level, collected by L. C. Alcala and others, 1969 & 1971 (CAS 124159, 139138). New insular record.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS: Cebu: Central Visayas Region: Cebu Province: Camotes Islands: **Ponson Island**: Pilar Municipality: Pilar town, site 52-A, sea level, collected by L. C. Alcala and others, 1968 (CAS 125070-71). New insular record.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS: Cebu: Central Visayas Region: Cebu Province: Camotes Islands: **Pacijan Island**: San Francisco Municipality: Union San Francisco, 50-100 ft., collected by L. C. Alcala and others, 1969 (CAS 124018). New insular record.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS: Bohol: Central Visayas Region: Bohol Province: **Tintiman Island**: Ubay Municipality: central part, 100 ft., collected by L. C. Alcala and others, 1967 (CAS-SU 27550, 27555, 27557, 27569). New insular record.

Figure 1. *Ramphotyphlops braminus* from Curaçao. Photo by Jurjen ten Borg, 14 July 2007.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS: Bohol: Central Visayas Region: Bohol Province: **Pamilacan Island**: Baclayon Municipality: Baclayon, 0-100 ft., collected by L. C. Alcala and others, 1971 (CAS 139134-37, 139145-46). New insular record.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS: N Mindanao: Caraga Region: Misamis Oriental Province: Camiguin Subprovince: **Camiguin Island**: Mambajao Municipality: Barrio Baylao, Buloc-buloc Sitio, collected by L. C. Alcala and others, 5 July 1966 (CAS-SU 26230); Mambajao Municipality: Mt. Mambajao, 5.0 km NE Catarman town, collected by L. C. Alcala, 15 May 1967 (CAS-SU 28206); Catarman Municipality: Kidag-om, 2 km NE Catarman town, 700-1500 ft., collected by L. C. Alcala and others, 19 May 1967 (CAS-SU 28197-98). New insular record.

SEYCHELLES: **Curieuse Island** (Anonymous, 1983). Curieuse is a small uninhabited 2.83 hectare granitic island with elevations up to 172 m. The low-lying area on the eastern side supports cultivated coconut plantations, probably the habitat of *R. braminus,* although other possible habitats include the mangrove swamp and sandy beaches. New insular record.

SINGAPORE: **Pulau Ubin**: (Lim, 2006; Teo, 2007). Two websites have listed *Ramphotyphlops braminus* as inhabiting Pulau Ubin but these data have not appeaed in print. New insular record.

TAIWAN: **Pescadores Island**, collected by V. Kuhne, 1909 (CAS 25084-85). New insular record.

USA: Florida: **Pasco County**: ca. 20 yds. From Pasco/Pinellas County line, corner of US Hwy 19 and Phoenix Avenue, collected by R. Lawson, P. G. Frank and P. J. Frank, 2006 (CAS 233358). New county record for Florida.

USA: Hawaii: Maui County: **Kahoolawe Island**, collected by S. Aschman, 1990 (BPBM 11631). New insular record for Hawaii.

USA: **Ohio**: northeastern Ohio (OPLIN, 2001). A confirmed report from a greenhouse in northeastern Ohio is reported online. New state record for USA.

USA: **Minnesota**: Minneapolis-St. Paul (J. Hahn, 2004). In October, 2004, a resident in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area discovered a dead juvenile *Ramphotyphlops braminus* on the floor of a ground-level apartment. Later three additional juveniles (ca. 60-65 mm long) were found in the same apartment, suggesting recently hatched neonates. Presumably the mother is still alive and and established population can be assumed as in the Boston, MA case (Wallach et al., 1991; Jones et al., 1995). New state record for USA.

USA: Texas: **Cameron County**: Brownsville, 0.5 mi. NW Brownsville Airport, collected 1999 (TCWC 84546). First voucher specimen from Cameron County.

NETHERLAND ANTILLES: **Curaçao**: in bathroom of a bungalow at Habitat Curaçao Resort (Reef Sint Marie), Coral Estate, SE of Sint Willibrordus *fide* Jurjen ten Borg, 14 July 2007 [pers. comm. with five documenting photos. See Fig. 1]. A second specimen was found dead and partially eaten by ants by

another person in the same locality. First record for country and island.

There have been other reported sightings of *Ramphotyphlops braminus* in the New World but without verification or voucher specimens. These include California and Arizona in the USA, plus Belize, Costa Rica and Puerto Rico.

All records are of interest so anyone finding a specimen should collect it and either report it or donate it to a museum collection. As a predator upon agricultural and building pests such as termites and ants, *Ramphotyphlops braminus* is a valuable snake.

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What You Missed at the April CHS Meeting

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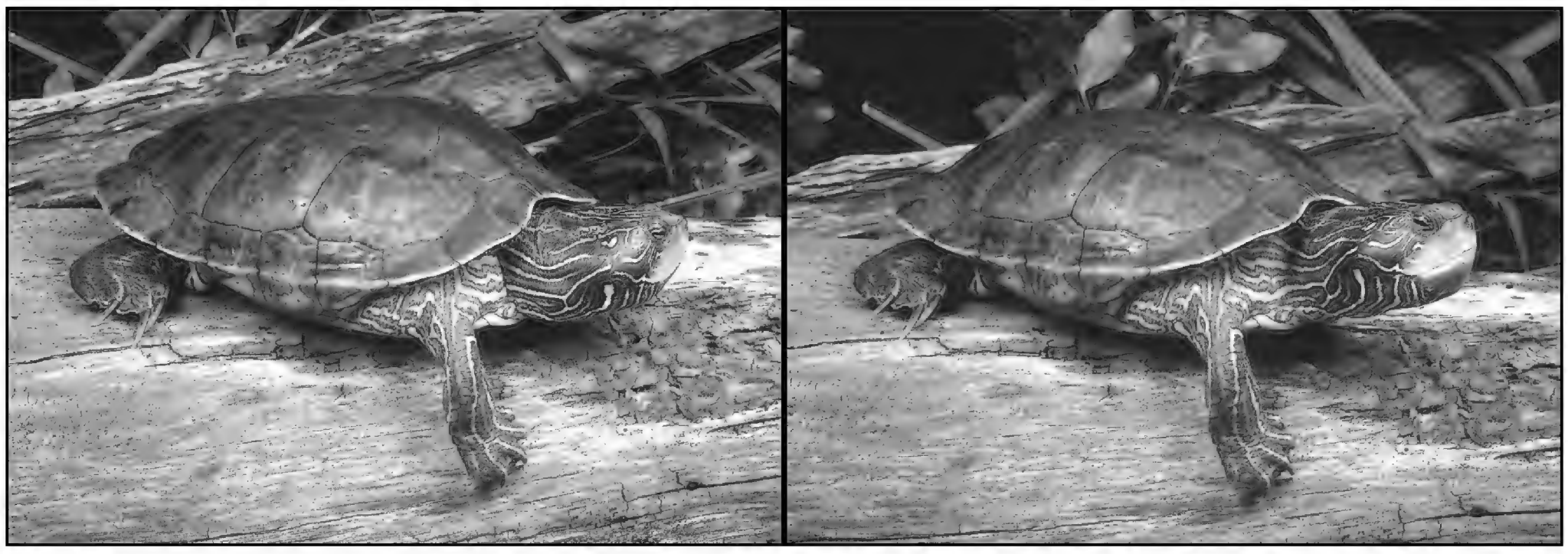
I have some skill and maybe some talent in very limited areas. Occasionally I show a flash of creativity. There are some tasks that I accomplish with dash and aplomb. Photography is not one of them. I'm not proud of this fact. When I bought my first SLR at around age twenty, it was the single most expensive purchase I had made in my life, and I had already owned three cars. I knew that I could take those beautiful photographs that would cause *National Geographic* to come knocking at my door. My delusions lasted until I had the first roll of film developed. I still take pictures, and every once in a while I take one that I actually like, but early on I understood that I would become a great photographer shortly after I became a great golfer. I've played two games of golf, both times shooting over one hundred . . . on nine holes.

I was worried about Bill Love talking about photography. Yes, that Bill Love, writer, photographer, lecturer, expedition leader, former breeder, dealer, and importer. Very few people in the world of herps do not know Bill Love. I know Bill Love, although not well, but everything I know about him I like. He's friendly, easy going, a gracious host and a welcome guest, one of the most knowledgeable people I know, and someone who seems willing to try just about anything, at least if it involves reptiles or amphibians. So why was I worried about his presentation at our April meeting? He was going to talk about photography. I can grasp aspects of venom research, understand some of population dynamics, wrestle with taxonomy and glean something from cladistics, but this was photography, and I was sure that while his talk would be interesting, it would do me no good.

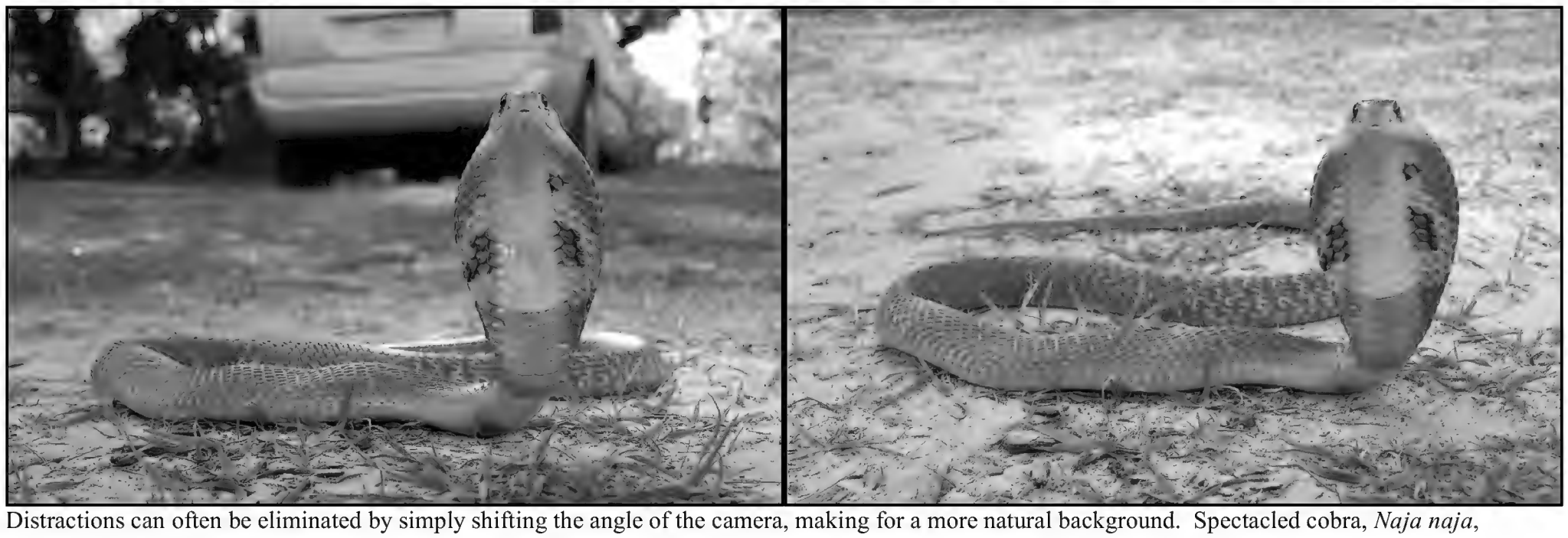
He started with a photo suffused with oranges and reds, coppers and browns, showing an alligator snapper gaping widely. When I showed my wife, she loved it. He made an alligator snapper attractive to a nonherper and it was followed by one terrific photo after another. But Bill didn't just show us good pictures. He showed us bad pictures, and for the investment of a little over an hour, anyone in the audience who will ever take a photo had their lives improved by Bill Love. He showed us two of his first photos taken with a Kodak Instamatic about the year 1961. They looked like my photos (bad)! He reassured us that he wouldn't bore us with endless technical details. He launched into his rules of good photography based on technique, not gear. He emphasized the importance of patience. He gave us examples of everything, and while Bill talked about the importance of POSE, he showed us bad photos of animals not filling the screen, and animals overflowing the screen. He told us to turn our cameras to the vertical, and showed us pictures of a corn snake hanging in a tree that made his point. He demonstrated with pictures of a ball python why we should avoid bunching, three-dimensional sprawl, and overlapping body parts. Photographs of clumsy body poses taxed our eyes, and we learned that animals don't have to sprawl across the screen, barely filling ten percent of the picture. He insisted that we have animals looking either sideways or directly at us, or somewhere in between, but never away from us. Then he usually showed us exceptions to his rules, and why the picture worked even if it broke the rules. Show the head. Pay attention to the background. Don't waste space. Use a different angle of view. Make sure the habitat looks natural. Watch for awkward looking arrangements of limbs.

FOCUS is always important, and with auto focus, usually obtainable, but many times the right part of the picture is not focused. Focus should always be on the eyes, and many times you have to either shut off autofocus or fool it to get the eyes in focus. Blur is usually caused by not enough light, shaking while using a long lens, the motion of your subject, or the auto focus focusing on the center of the picture. A greater depth of field is usually desirable, but Bill showed us an example where shallow depth of field made for a much better photo.

Bill opened the LIGHTING section with the comment that usually lighting should come from behind the photographer, but then showed a photo of a dramatically backlit rattlesnake in full defensive pose. The exceptions are as important as the rules at times. We saw too much shadow or wrongly placed shadows,



The importance of posing the animal is clear in the pictures above. Animals looking away from the viewer make the photo less interesting. Northern map turtle, *Graptemys geographica*, photographs by Bill Love.



Distractions can often be eliminated by simply shifting the angle of the camera, making for a more natural background. Spectacled cobra, *Naja naja*, photographs by Bill Love.

too much sun light or not enough fill flash, too much contrast with the background or not enough. He gave us examples of when the photographer might use glare to advantage, especially when the specimen is naturally shiny or wet, and when it may be essential to make your subject look alive by putting some shine in the eye. He finished lighting with an admonition to be extra careful of glare when shooting through glass.

Pictures of a Gila monster looking like it might be about to swallow a cigarette, a cobra with a van in the background, snakes with flies on their heads and frogs with dirt stuck to them provided all of us with DISTRACTIONS. Sick animals, animals with wounds, and animals about to shed or shedding, unless demonstrating a specific point, should probably be avoided. Of course, Bill then showed us pictures that used what could be a distracting background to good effect such as a fence lizard on a fence, or when the action is so unusual that you accept the background of a road surface in order to take the shot of a lizard about to completely swallow another lizard.

He demonstrated TIPS AND TRICKS by showing a close-up shot of a lizard on a rock, then backing out to include the helper who was holding the lizard by its hind leg so it wouldn't run off. Helpers can be invaluable when photographing animals. He mentioned cooling herps to slow them down, using shade or shelters to calm them, taking pictures with objects of known size so that the viewer has a reference for the size of the herp, and my favorite, using Velcro to temporarily hold four scurrying baby turtles in place on a log while he photographed them.

He urged all of us to try and add a little PIZZAZ by shooting out of the ordinary photos that might include unusual behaviors or actions, different features of related subjects, or natural and exciting poses. Two tomato frogs sitting among vegetables on a plate demonstrated that a little whimsy can make an interesting shot. Emphasize the special features of your subject, and don't be afraid to show people and animals close up.

His last suggestions show what type of person Bill is. Learn to use a photo-editing program, thank your subjects' owners and send them copies of the shot, and credit the herps' owners and your helpers. Also, get rid of your bad photos, unless you want to use them for your own lectures on photography. I'm certainly not going to need any of my bad shots for that, but if I get rid of all my bad shots, I'll have nothing. Bill's talk won't make me a great photographer, but I think that the next time I grab my camera for a quick snap shot, I'll remember at least some of Bill's advice. I hope so. I really need the help. And if you want to get Bill's advice on photography and follow him throughout the wilds of Madagascar, check out his web site at www.bluechameleon.org and book one of his tours. Then post your great pictures on the CHS forum and make me envious.

Even in the bright sunlight of the left photo, shadows may need to be eliminated with a fill flash. Western rattlesnake, *Crotalus oreganus*, photographs by Bill Love.

What You Missed at ReptileFest 2008

John Archer
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I finally walked into the U.I.C. gym a little after noon on Friday. I wanted to get there even earlier, but errands and commitments kept me away. I had a car full of cages and stuff, and the building was very empty, but the tables were already set up by the crew at the university, the palm trees were in place, and the **Bavirshas** (**Bob** and **Dan**) had already dropped off and assembled much of their exhibit. They started Thursday with their set-up, and they didn't finish their teardown until Monday! The weather helped us, not too bad to keep people at home, but bad enough to keep them inside. The first job was one of my least favorite, putting on the tablecloths, but **Jenny Vollman** and **Dotty Humbert** were there, and so was **Luis Schwichtenberg**, one of the Benito Juarez High School students who have come for the last three years to help. We started on the tables, got distracted by other tasks, came back to the tables and got distracted again. Set-up is hard and boring, especially those tablecloths. **Luis** and I did our share, but I think that **Dotty** and **Jenny** did almost all of the tables. **Dan Bavirsha**'s layout for the event was practical and attractive, and the new tablecloths he ordered looked great, garnering many favorable comments over the weekend. Time passed and more people filtered in. **Teresa Savino** and **Molly Carlson** took over the task of decorating the photo booth, and I'm sure their work contributed to the record number of photos that were taken this year. **Linda** and **Andy Malawy** brought in a carload of animals and equipment to start the Herculean task of arranging the Herps of Illinois display. **Marybeth Trilling** showed up, and besides all of her great frogs on exhibit, she did her usual outstanding job, filling in at whatever needed to be done. **Bill Bavirsha** (cousin to our Bavirshas) of U.I.C. wandered around saying hi to everyone and double-checking that we had what we needed. He passed the everyday tasks to **Kyle Herman**, who later passed that responsibility to **Nick**, who later passed it to **Ross**. Those were the bosses, or at least the ones we called, but there was a whole crew, and they're all easy to work with. All of the university staff were hard workers, congenial and right there when you needed them.

Some of the people who were coming from other states came in Friday evening, taking advantage of the earlier set-up times. **Bob** and **Sheri Ashley** brought the t-shirts that every exhibitor received in appreciation for your efforts (if you didn't get one, let me know). Bob and Sheri are long time members and strong supporters of the CHS. **Kurt Lantz** came in with his jewelry, and I once again, to no avail, begged him not to allow my daughter near his goods. Past CHS president **Jack Schoenfelder** took six tables and the corner space with his toys and goods. The vendors all pay for their tables, and at a show such as ours, it's always a gamble whether they'll make any money, but they come because they enjoy the show and support the CHS. Another student from Benito Juarez showed up, **Heriberto Quiroz**, and he did everything that was asked of him. **Jane Billette**, **Stephanie Beiser** and **Jen Periat**, with the **International Reptile Conservation Foundation** began to set up the exhibit that took nearly the entire north wall after their long drive from Michigan, and **Desiree Wong** flew in from California to help! **Erik Tobin, Jim Shearer**, **John Kline** and what seemed like the entire Michigan Herp Society drove down with the snake entrance, helped with set-up and teardown, and as usual, contributed greatly to our success. **Cindy Rampacek** came in from Milwaukee after hours of being stuck in traffic coming from Milwaukee. Husband **Brian** showed up later sporting a new tattoo. I always anticipate what **Gary Fogel** will come up with, and this year he didn't disappoint with his truly gargantuan Godzilla display. When I went home Friday night, **Jason Hood** was still around waiting for **Gavin Brink** to bring his always outstanding display.

Saturday began way too early for my daughter **Grace**, her friend **Brittany** and me. Also **Jenny** and her repeat helper **Liz Woolridge**, who spent the night guarding the building, meaning they finally got to sleep late after the last Friday person set up and had to be up early so the Saturday morning people could set up. None of us were too cranky. Really. Things were chaotic in the unloading area. Signs had to be hung in the gym and placed on the roadways. **Darin Croft** (past 'Fest coordinator) and **Lisa Yerian** showed up from Cleveland (!) and pitched in to help. Some first time exhibitors began to show, like **Quinn McNear** with his gorgeous leopard gecko and **Blaise Filippini** with his equally gorgeous corn snake, which he has trained in a maze! Really, he's got the movies to prove it. I don't have the definite numbers, but I think that first time exhibitors were at an all time high this year. Name tags and animal tags were distributed. Coffee and donuts were consumed. Able-bodied individuals tried to figure out how to assemble the snake entrance (you mean you missed it?). Cages were set up and cleaned. The public lined up and waited to get in. We made an opening announcement and months of work come to fruition.

Three thousand people poured through the doors Saturday, and another three thousand Sunday. That's a record for ReptileFest. Crises were kept to a minimum because everyone took ownership of this show. Brand new member and first time exhibitor **Caleb Gordon** stepped in to help man herps of Illinois, and happened to win the "best first-time exhibitor" award. **Rob Carmichael** and **Bryan Suson** helped fill in around permanent fixtures (we hope) **Steve Brown** and **Jim Thompson**, who both drove in from the St. Louis area to help with the show. **Andy Malawy** had the cash register overheating and the public keeping its cool with his quick cashiering at the door, and **Linda Malawy** competently cared for dozens of animals that many of us had entrusted to her while continually answering the public's questions about Illinois herps. **Dan Nathan** had his usual amazing exhibit, and once again gained the "people's choice" award for best exhibit. **Phil Gross** and his fiancé from our most generous sponsor, **Zoo Med**, kept their good humor through out the show, even when we encroached on their space with our extra cash register. Our other sponsor, **Timberline**, sent enough free crickets that we had plenty to hand out to the exhibitors at the end of 'Fest. **Jim Nesci** couldn't make it both days, but managed to haul his Aldabra tortoise and an alligator to the

show on Saturday. That was a good thing, because several publicity pictures we had circulated showed a young lady riding on that tortoise. **Don Wheeler** and **Bud Wagner** once again delighted dozens of kids with their artful tattoos. **Sandy Quinn**, our ardent supporter from **Reptiles Magazine**, bought pizza on Saturday night, along with donating prizes.

The **Brookfield Zoo** and the **Shedd Aquarium** volunteers were numerous, and seemed to be having a great time, and the zoo had a giant frog and shark cruising the floor (you missed those?). PAs announced the occasional lost child, cell phone, and car keys. We didn't permanently lose one child (that I know of). **Michelle Neilson** and her large group of helpers managed to work through recalcitrant phones and other poor communications to provide transportation for **Marybeth** and her cages in spite of the already large logistical problems involved with transporting their own displays. Another Benito Juarez student, **Jose De Jesus**, was always available when we needed him. **Nick D'Andrea** and **Mike Scott** were always willing volunteers when extra transportation was needed. **John Bailey** worked for months attracting our sponsors and coordinating our vendors, and then spent two days lending his expertise to the box turtle box. **Deb Krohn** worked for months inviting our organizations, and then talked her mom into helping with her exhibit while **Deb** managed the stage speakers. **Christina Ninedorf** manned the corn snake trees and has posted some excellent photos on the forum. **Joey Robinson** and his mom **Gayle** not only exhibited, but also helped late into the night with teardown. **Lawrence Huddleston** walked around for two days with an iguana on his head. **Rich Crowley** had another huge exhibit this year with his great displays and his gorgeous and large snakes. **Nancy Kloskowski** convinced long time member but infrequent attendee **Janice Kucera** to exhibit with her, and Nancy's display won the "exhibitors' choice" award. **Deborah** from the Little Red Schoolhouse and **Patty** from the Grove returned, representing their organizations. **John Christianson** wandered the floor shooting professional video that he's going to edit for us, and his daughters, **Libby**, **Lucy** and **Kailey** manned an exhibit. The entire **Hoppenrath** family—**Mary**, **Rick**, **Rob**, **Josh** and **Joe**—showed up for teardown after manning a huge exhibit all weekend, and **Mary** was instrumental in getting media attention for 'Fest prior to the event. Veterinarians **Todd Gray**, **Byron de la Navarre**, **Matt O'Connor**, **Steve Barten** and **Gery Herrmann**, manned the vet table and answered all inquiries with patience and wisdom. **Todd** and **Liz Phipps** from Wisconsin drove in, **Liz** to help with **Cindy's** animals and **Todd** to do his normal outstanding job at the photo booth.

OK, you get the idea. You missed a really exciting, record-breaking ReptileFest if you weren't there. An exhibition that just would not have happened without the hard work of a lot of people. Of course, that's my problem. I can't possibly thank all the people involved, and I know I've left out many of the people whose efforts made this the best 'Fest ever (**Bob Hilger** and his photo booth gang. **Gary Kostka** and a really pretty Japanese rat snake. **Andy Sagan**, first time exhibitor, with another really pretty Japanese rat snake. **Dick Buchholz** and Nessie. **Chris Murphy** and his family. **Chris Palmer**, who for the last few years, has designed all of our professional looking ads for free, and he's not even a member.) I don't mean to slight anyone! I don't even know all the people who participated. Go to the CHS forum for some spectacular pictures. (Thank you **Erik Williams**, **Kim Klisiak** and **Christina Ninedorf**) and more comments on the show. Go to YouTube and search under ReptileFest 2008, Chicago, for videos already posted by visitors. Next year you won't have to rely on my writing. Keep April 4–5, 2009, open. You'll discover that working at 'Fest is pretty much its own reward.

ReptileFest 2009 will be even better! You gonna miss that?

Unofficial Minutes of the CHS Board Meeting, April 18, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 7:43 P.M. at the Schaumburg Public Library. All board members were present.

Officers' Reports

Recording Secretary: Cindy Rampacek read the minutes of the March board meeting. Corrections were offered and the minutes were accepted as corrected.

Treasurer: No questions were raised on the financial statement for March. ReptileFest paid attendance for two days was 5925, which was an increase of about 1500 from the previous year. Final tally will hopefully be made available at the May board meeting when all receipts will have been filed.

Membership Secretary: We gained 7 new members at ReptileFest and several renewals. The latest list of nonrenewals was once again shared with the board.

Vice-president: Watch the CHS forum <http://chicagoherp.org/forum/> for speaker announcements.

Corresponding Secretary: There were 12 calls this month. Deb will be writing a few thank-you letters in regard to ReptileFest.

Sergeant-at-arms: Attendance at the March general meeting was 63.

Committee Reports

Shows:

- We will be at the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum the first weekend of each month. CHS tablecloths are in the lab.
- Friends of the Chicago River have asked us to participate on Sunday, May 10, for Chicago River Day. This is a thank-you event for their volunteer clean-up staff.
- NARBC is scheduled for October 11 and 12.

Augustana College made a donation to the CHS for participating their Big Brothers/Big Sisters event.

ReptileFest: A lengthy discussion commenced in regards to the best dates for ReptileFest 2009. With Easter landing on a later

weekend in 2009, we have choosen the week before. The dates for ReptileFest 2009 are April 4–5. Mark your calendars. Hours will remain 10 A.M. – 5 P.M. There was further discussion on the storage of CHS items and the trailer and possible storage items. Discussion will be continued on the forum as soon as inventories are arranged. Fact Sheets have been postponed but we will have plenty of time to have them ready for 2009. Admission price seems to be in a good range and will remain the same. John is trying to get a list of ALL folks who worked at fest in some fashion for thank-yous.

Raffle: Natural Chemistry and Zoo Med made large donations to the raffle of the items left from their 'Fest displays.

Old Business

Midwest Herpetological Symposium 2009: Jason Hood and Deb Krohn will be co -chairs of this event. If you would like to participate, please contact Jason to volunteer.

New Website: Looks great. Please submit suggestions to Aaron LaForge. We will be moving to a different server very soon and the new site will be up and running. You can also leave suggestions on the CHS forums.

Our status as a not-for-profit corporation with the state of Illinois has been restored. Amy Sullivan was AMAZING and thank you for getting the paperwork taken care of so quickly!

Mike Dloogatch will be addressing the CHS grants program with Amy Sullivan and getting the new guidelines active for this coming year. It was also suggested to increase the maximum award per grant.

New Business

Earthshare of Illinois offers grants to nonprofits. Cindy Rampacek and Amy Sullivan will work on it and hopefully get everything submitted before the April 30, 2008, deadline.

Matt O'Connor's mother has applied for a grant through the REI corporation for CHS.

Round Table

John Driscoll was amazed by the attendance at 'Fest.

Deb Krohn praised John Archer for his efforts in organizing 'Fest.

Rob Carmichael is doing well and all animals were secured at the time of his traffic accident while returning from 'Fest.

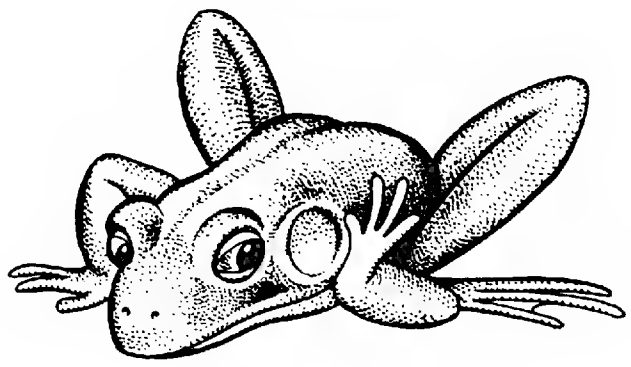
Matt O'Connor was impressed with the overall health of the animals at 'Fest.

The meeting adjourned at 9:43 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by recording secretary Cindy Rampacek

Bull. Chicago Herp. Soc. 43(5):87, 2008

The Tympanum



If there are any benefits to owning herps, I think I've experienced most of them. One of the big benefits is being able to educate people about them, and I do that every first weekend of the month at the Peggy Notabaert Nature Museum.

On the day of the show, I get up around 7:30 to eat breakfast and get my animals together. We arrive at the museum around 9:30 to set up our table, which is located near a window in the Wilderness Walk. The museum opens at 10. At first, the flow of people isn't that big, so either I or my mom stand at the top of the stairs at the balcony to attract some attention. It's funny, because the first thing out of people's mouths when they see me is something like, "Oooh, look at that girl, she's holding a snake!" and most of these comments are directed at the children who are with those people. Oh, where to begin about the children. Most are warily interested, and some are excited to see someone holding an animal such as a snake. For some of them, it is their first time touching a snake, and I love sharing that experience with a child. It makes me feel really good when a child is interested in snakes, because they feel the same way about them as I do. People often have the wrong impression of snakes, like they think it's extremely dangerous, or that all snakes are poisonous, or that all snakes will bite if you get too close. I feel like I'm doing a world of good when I explain to them about snakes, because they walk away having learned something new, and they no longer fear them. It does get a bit tiresome to repeat myself all day, but it's worth it to know that they no longer fear reptiles.

I also enjoy working with the other people in the show. They usually bring some great herps. It's a bit like a miniature ReptileFest. I just have a lot of fun being with them. It's nice to hear what they have to say about their animals, and they also teach me new things. Not only do the museum patrons learn some new things, but I do too. It's a really great experience. Having said that, I invite anyone and everyone in the CHS to exhibit at a show. It's great fun, and hopefully you'll have the same experience I have.

Another perk about the shows is the kind of people I get to meet. So many different families come to the museum, and they aren't really expecting live animals to be there. It's so nice to see grandparents having a nice day at the museum with their grandchildren. It feels good to brighten their day by means of education and entertainment. **Molly Carlson (posts as herp_family on the CHS Forum).**

Herpetology 2008

In this column the editorial staff presents short abstracts of herpetological articles we have found of interest. This is not an attempt to summarize all of the research papers being published; it is an attempt to increase the reader's awareness of what herpetologists have been doing and publishing. The editor assumes full responsibility for any errors or misleading statements.

DO ANOLES ALTERNATE THE SEX OF SUCCESSIVE OFFSPRING?

J. W. Walguarnery [2007, Copeia 2007(4):829-837] notes that green anoles (*Anolis carolinensis*) have been reported to alternate the sex of successive offspring, a pattern not known in any other vertebrate. However, no adaptive explanation has been posed for this novel pattern in *Anolis*, and the extent to which sex alternation is a phylogenetic constraint versus a facultative reproductive strategy in this taxon has not been determined. The author examined consecutive offspring produced by *A. carolinensis* and *A. sagrei* from four locations in the southeastern United States over three years under a common garden design in order to identify population and species level variation in patterns of offspring sex independent of maternal and incubation environments. These data do not indicate sequential alternation of offspring sex in either species and allow for rejection of even small deviations from the pattern expected under random production of the sexes. The author concludes, therefore, that anole reproduction is not universally constrained to a pattern of sequential alternation of offspring sex and speculate that this pattern is conditionally manifest depending on interactions between stress hormones and fluctuations in parental resources in the form of maternally deposited yolk steroids.

AGGREGATION IN BIBRON'S GECKO

A. Meyer and P. le F. N. Mouton [2007, African J. Herpetology 56(2):137-147] investigated aggregation behavior in a rock-dwelling gecko, *Chondrodactylus bibronii*. In a laboratory setup, individuals were provided with an excess of shelters to determine whether limited availability of optimal shelters may be the cause of this species' aggregation behavior in the wild. *Chondrodactylus bibronii* grouped significantly more than predicted by the urn model of random occupation, hinting at mutual conspecific attraction as a possible mechanism for the observed aggregating behavior. A slight temperature gradient in the laboratory setup, however, precluded a firmer conclusion. In addition to the laboratory study, a field-survey was conducted to investigate the incidence, size and composition of groups. The proportion of solitary C *bibronii* individuals (39%) in the sample was more than double that found in the group-living lizard, *Cordylus cataphractus,* where the mechanism for aggregation behavior is known to be mutual conspecific attraction. Similar to small groups of *C. cataphractus*, the *C. bibronii* groups in the sample never contained more than one adult male. Like in *C. cataphractus*, solitary males were also found to be significantly smaller in body size than group-living ones. Unlike in *C. cataphractus*, there was no statistical difference in the proportions of solitary males and solitary females in the sample. It thus remains unclear whether aggregation in *C. bibronii* is induced by limited availability of optimal shelters or whether it is the result of mutual conspecific attraction. The data provide support for both mechanisms.

RED-BACKED SALAMANDER ANTIPREDATOR ADAPTATIONS

M. D. Venesky and C. D. Anthony [2007, Herpetologica 63(4):450-458] note that populations of eastern red-backed salamanders, *Plethodon cinereus*, exhibit color polymorphism, and two color morphs are common: the red-striped morph and the lead-phase morph. A recent hypothesis attributes the maintenance of the polymorphism to selection on behavior and physiology. A series of laboratory experiments and a field study were conducted to determine whether striped and lead-phase salamanders exhibit different antipredator responses and whether predators differentially attacked the color forms. In predation trials, red-striped salamanders spent significantly more time in an "all trunk raised" posture and tended to remain immobile, whereas lead-phase salamanders were significantly more mobile. In field collected museum specimens of individual *P. cinereus*, the authors found more lead-phase salamanders with autotomized tails compared to red-striped salamanders, possibly indicating different attack rates on the two forms. The results from this study demonstrate that striped and lead-phase salamanders of *P. cinereus* respond differently to snake predators and may be attacked differently in the field. These differences may contribute to the maintenance of color polymorphism in this species.

ANTIPREDATOR BEHAVIOR BY HORNED LIZARDS

W. C. Sherbrooke [2008, J. Herpetology 42(1):145-152] tested the discrimination ability of Texas horned lizards (*Phrynosoma cornutum*) during antipredator responses with snakes of two genera having distinctly different prey foraging and subjugation strategies; western diamondback rattlesnakes (*Crotalus atrox*) are "sit-and-wait" predators with a venomous strike from ambush, whereas whipsnakes (*Masticophis* spp.) are nonvenomous, rapid pursuit-and-grasp predators. Neither snake constricts prey; both ingest prey whole. Lizards were watched for reactions during close approaches by moving snakes. All unapproached and some approached lizards remained alert and motionless. Approached lizards that reacted either (1) ran rapidly to a distant point in the large enclosure, or (2) maintained their position but dorsoventrally flattened their body and tilted their stance, orienting a "dorsal shield" posture toward the snake. The distinctly contrasting responses of the lizards to the two snakes were significantly different, relocation running from rattlesnakes and stationary-body reorientation toward whipsnakes. For slow-running, broad-bodied Texas horned lizards, running is an appropriate escape response to a nonpursuing venomous predator, whereas the nonrunning body-conformation/orientation change is an appropriate defensive response, advertising size and spiny defenses, to a rapid-pursuit snake that must grasp prey with its jaws to effect capture and subjugation. Apparently horned lizards visually recognized, probably innately, the two snake taxa as different categories of predator threat.

NEST SITE SELECTION

G. W. Wahl III et al. [2008, Herpetologica 64(1):12-19] note that nest site selection occurs when females place eggs at sites that differ from random sites within a delimited area. Selection of components of the microhabitat that increase embryonic survival is expected. Female four-toed salamanders, *Hemidactylium scutatum*, at two montane study ponds in Virginia selected nesting locations that had more moss, grass, and other living vegetation than found in other locations around the pond. In addition, selected nest sites had steeper bank angles and averaged lower pH than other sites and were more often found facing north than expected by chance. Of the variables selected by *H. scutatum* when choosing a nest site, bank angle, nest aspect, and pH were correlated with embryonic survival. It was found that north-facing nests were cooler than south-facing nests. Embryonic survival was highest in nests on steep slopes that faced north with lower average temperatures and that had lower pH values. A third pond that historically had fewer nesting females and was characterized by low embryonic survival did not have nesting habitats that combined steep bank angles with a northerly aspect. When constructing ponds for wildlife in areas where *H. scutatum* is of special concern, the authors suggest that steep bank angles be situated so that they face north.

LEECH PARASITISM IN A TURTLE ASSEMBLAGE

A. M. Readel et al. [2008, Copeia 2008(1):227-233] note that leeches are one of the most commonly observed parasites of freshwater turtles. Baited hoop traps were used to capture 433 turtles belonging to five species (*Apalone spinifera*, *Chelydra serpentina*, *Chrysemys picta*, *Sternotherus odoratus* and *Trachemys scripta*) to determine the host (species, microclimate use, sex, reproductive stage, and body size) and environmental characteristics (month of capture, turtle abundance, vegetation, turbidity, pond size, and availability of basking structures) that affected leech parasitism in Illinois ponds. Leech prevalence on turtles varied significantly among turtle species, was highest on bottom-walkers and adults, and varied throughout the year. Leech intensity was highest on larger turtles and in turbid ponds. The results from this study display the importance of utilizing turtle assemblages for examining overall trends in host–parasite dynamics, demonstrate the influence of environmental characteristics on leech parasitism, and provide baseline data for future studies examining leech parasitism on turtles.

EFFECTS OF EXCAVATING TURTLE NESTS

J. Samson et al. [2007, Chelonian Conservation and Biology 6(2):255-259] tested the hypothesis that handling turtle eggs decreases embryo survival in a well-studied population of midland painted turtle (*Chrysemys picta marginata*) by comparing embryo survival in handled and nonhandled natural nests during three nesting seasons. All nests were protected from mammalian predators. Upon excavation of the nests in the following spring, no differences in survival were found between the two treatments, suggesting that the benefits in knowledge gained from nest excavation far outweigh the possibility of a small increase in mortality that could arise from handling the eggs.

DIET CHANGES IN A SEMI-TERRESTRIAL TADPOLE

D. D. Wickramasinghe et al. [2007, Copeia 2007(4):1012-1018] note that semi-terrestrial tadpoles of the Sri Lankan dicroglossid rock frog (*Nannophrys ceylonensis*) feed by scraping the surface microfilm from the wet rocks on which they live. Gut content analysis of 40 tadpoles revealed microflora, microfauna, detritus and mineral particles. Conspecific eggs and tadpoles were rarely also found in the tadpoles' guts. Absolute gut length decreased by 59% between Gosner stages 26 and 42, and the number of gut coils decreased as well. Tadpoles of *N. ceylonensis* shift from primarily herbivory to primarily carnivory as they develop, the greatest shift occurring from Gosner stages 32 to 34. This dietary shift is correlated with a decrease in the length of the gut and the number of gut coils. Precocious metamorphosis of the alimentary tract to accommodate a carnivorous diet may facilitate tadpole survival and growth in a heavily shaded terrestrial environment with relatively low primary productivity.

REPTILES OF MOUNT CAMEROON

N. L. Gonwouo et al. [2007, African J. Herpetology 56(2): 149-161] recorded 74 species of reptiles from 49 genera and 14 families during a survey of reptiles in the Mt. Cameroon region. An additional 12 species have been found in the area but were not detected during this research. The total of 86 species represents more than one-third of the reptilian fauna known in Cameroon, making this site among the richest in the country. Lowland forest had the greatest number of species (58) followed by submontane forest (45) montane forest (21) and marine (4) species. A number of rare or little known reptiles were encountered in the region including the skink *Lacertaspis gemmiventris* and the blind snake *Typhlops decorosus*. Mt. Cameroon appears not to have any strictly endemic reptile species. The high number of reptiles recorded at this site highlights its significance in terms of biological diversity. Sound conservation measures through the erection of the proposed areas to forest reserves could maintain this high diversity while integrating the needs of agricultural companies and local people farming around the area.

REDISCOVERY OF A LOST SPECIES

E. Twomey and J. L. Brown [2008, Herpetologica 64(1): 121-137] report that the Santiago poison frog, *Adelphobates captivus*, a species not seen in life since 1929, was recently rediscovered on an expedition to its type locality in northwestern Peru. The colors of this species, previously unknown, consist of a black dorsum with bright red-orange spots and yellow spots ventrally. The authors provide amendments to the original description as well as the first accounts of tadpole morphology, vocalization, and natural history. A Bayesian phylogenetic analysis suggests *Adelphobates captivus* and a species originally described as *Dendrobates mysteriosus* are sister species that form a monophyletic clade sister to *Ranitomeya*. The authors propose to clarify the taxonomic status of *D. mysteriosus* incertae sedis by erecting a new genus, *Excidobates*, to include *mysteriosus* and its sister taxon *captivus*. Members of this genus are distinguished from *Ranitomeya* by 11 site substitutions in their rrnS and rrnL sequences, well-developed first fingers, and pale spots on the ventral surfaces of the thighs.

LIFE HISTORY FOR A COTTONMOUTH POPULATION

J. G. Hill, III, and S. J. Beaupre [2008, Copeia 2008(1): 105-114] note that life histories of a species often vary geographically, and comparative studies of populations in different habitats are useful for understanding how environmental variation influences life history. Such studies are currently lacking for most snake species despite their growing importance as model organisms for life history studies. The authors present life history data for a population of western cottonmouths (*Agkistrodon piscivorus leucostoma*) inhabiting a "riffle–pool" creek system (Rocky Grove) located in the Ozark Mountains in northwest Arkansas and compare the results with those available for other populations. One hundred forty-two individual snakes were captured 283 times from August 1996 through September 2003. Mean snout–vent length (SVL) of adult Rocky Grove *A. piscivorus* (males 60.8 ± 2.68 cm, $n = 47$, females 54.9 ± 1.74 cm, $n = 47$) was among the smallest reported for any population of *A. piscivorus*. Rocky Grove *A. piscivorus* also exhibited a low degree of sexual size dimorphism compared to other localities, and mean female SVL was 90.3% that of males. Growth rates were the slowest reported for any temperate zone pitviper (males 0.151 ± 0.053 cm/month, $n = 46$, females 0.178 ± 0.06 cm/month, $n = 66$). Limited data also indicate low reproductive output for this population in terms of frequency of reproduction and litter size. Female reproduction averaged less than biennial as evidenced by consistently low proportion of pregnant to non-pregnant females (18.4%) and reproductive histories of individual female snakes. Litter size averaged 4.1 ± 0.63 ($n = 10$). Mating at Rocky Grove occurs in late summer but may also occur in spring. *Agkistrodon piscivorus* at this study site may be limited in energy acquisition rates relative to conspecifics in other parts of the range.

WOOD FROG HABITAT USE

T. A. G. Rittenhouse and R. D. Semlitsch [2007, J. Herpetology 41(4):645-653] note that fitness benefits to individuals from using a particular habitat during the nonbreeding season are likely species- and habitat-specific. Their goal was to define the postbreeding habitat use of adult wood frogs (*Rana sylvatica*) within continuous oak-hickory forest in Missouri. Radio-telemetry was used to determine whether adult wood frogs are evenly spaced throughout this forest type or clumped at a particular resource. In addition, microhabitat selection was determined using conditional logistic regression that compares the microhabitat at frog locations to paired points located 2 m from the frog. Adult frogs migrated from breeding sites located on ridgetops into ephemeral, rocky ravines. Use of drainages by wood frogs depended on the distance between the breeding site and drainage, and the orientation of drainages relative to the pond edge influenced whether migratory paths of frogs are funneled or spaced apart. The most supported model of microhabitat selection indicated that frogs selected locations with increased leaf litter depth and air temperature and with decreased humidity and light compared to paired points. Persistence of wood frog populations along the southwestern edge of their range requires successful annual migrations between breeding sites and forested drainages, which are important nonbreeding habitat for wood frogs in a Missouri oak-hickory forest.

MOVEMENTS OF BOREAL TOADS

D. A. Schmetterling and M. K. Young [2008, J. Herpetology 42(1):111-123] note that the boreal toad (*Bufo boreas boreas*) is widely distributed in the western United States but has declined in portions of its range. Research directed at conserving boreal toads has indicated that their movements are largely terrestrial and often limited after the breeding season. The authors used a combination of stream-based netting, PIT tagging and radio telemetry to examine patterns in captures, movements and habitat use of boreal toads associated with two stream valleys in western Montana. Netting produced 514 captures of 118 adult and 203 juvenile toads from 8 July to 19 August 2003. Juveniles dominated catches initially but declined throughout the summer, whereas adult catches showed less consistent temporal trends. Of the 122 PIT-tagged toads, nearly two-thirds were recaptured 1–7 times in hoop nets, and the median total distance moved was over 1 km downstream. The median distance moved by radio-tagged toads was 2.1 km (maximum, 12.0 km) or 2.9 km (maximum, 13.0 km) if movements before and after radios were affixed are included. Over 17% of relocations of radio-tagged toads were at upland sites, 56% were in riparian zones, and 26% were in or adjacent to water. The authors believe that boreal toads in this area are engaging in long-distance movements between overwintering, breeding and summer growth sites. Downward redistribution via streams may be common in montane habitats and warrants examination in other regions.

SEXUAL DIMORPHISM IN THE THREE-TOED AMPHIUMA

C. L. Fontenot, Jr., and R. A. Seigel [2008, Copeia 2008(1):39-42] note that sexual dimorphism is widespread among vertebrates, and may be attributable to sexual selection, differences in ecology between the sexes, or both. The large aquatic salamander, *Amphiuma tridactylum*, has been suggested to have male biased sexual dimorphism that is attributable to male–male combat, although detailed evidence is lacking. To test this, data were collected on *A. tridactylum* head and body size, as well as on bite-marks inflicted by conspecifics. *Amphiuma tridactylum* is sexually dimorphic in several characters. There was no sex difference in body length, but males had heavier bodies than females of the same body length. Larger males had wider and longer heads than larger females, but whether any of these sexually dimorphic characters are attributable to differences in diet is unknown because diet data (by sex) are lacking. There was no difference in the number of bite-marks between males and females, and juveniles also possessed bite-marks, suggesting that the biting is not necessarily related to courtship or other reproductive activities. In addition, fresh bite-marks were present on individuals during months well outside of the breeding season. Biting was observed in the field and lab to occur by both sexes on both sexes, during feeding-frenzy type foraging. Thus, biting is likely related to foraging rather than to courtship. The sexually dimorphic characters remain unexplained, pending sex-specific diet data, but there is no evidence that they are related to male–male combat or to courtship.

Advertisements

For sale: rats and mice—pinkies, fuzzies and adults. Quantity discounts. Please send a SASE for pricelist or call Bill Brant, *THE GOURMET RODENT*, 6115 SW 137th Avenue, Archer FL 32618, (352) 495-9024, E-mail: GrmtRodent@aol.com.

For sale: from **The Mouse Factory**, producing superior quality, frozen feeder mice and rats. We feed our colony a nutrtionally balanced diet of rodent chow, formulated especially for us, and four types of natural whole grains and seeds. Mice starting from: pinks, $.17 each; fuzzies, $.24 each; hoppers, $.30 each; weanling, $.42; adult, $.48. Rats: starting with pinks at $.45 each, to XL at $1.80 each. Discount prices available. We accept Visa, MC, Discover or money orders. PO Box 85, Alpine TX 79831. Call **toll-free** at (800) 720-0076 or visit our website: <http://www.themousefactory.com>.

For sale: **high quality frozen feeders**. Over a decade of production and supply. Seven sizes of mice availabe: small newborn pinks up to jumbo adults. Prices start at $25 per 100. Feeders are separate in the resealable bag, not frozen together. Low shipping rates. Free price list. Kelly Haller, 4236 SE 25th Street, Topeka KS 66605, (913) 234-3358 evenings and weekends.

For sale: Graptemys.com T-shirts, 100% cotton, pre-shrunk, pigment-dyed shirts with the Graptemys.com embroidered logo. These are very high quality shirts with that stylish faded look. Sizes S-M-L-XL-XXL. Colors: Pacific blue, nautical red, brick red, plum, granite, khaki green and putty. All profits made from these shirts goes directly to in situ *Graptemys* research. $20 each with $3.00 shipping. Email: chris@graptemys.com or call (239) 437-4148 to order. You can look at the shirts at http://www.graptemys.com/shirts.htm

For sale: Never used Neodesha glass front cages; eight 24" ($45 each), nine 36" ($75 each), & three 48" ($155 each). All were purchased new from the manufacturer (Bush Herp) just months before they closed down. I originally purchased them for a tortoise breeding project which did not materialize. These are perfect for snakes, lizards, spiders or ?? They all have side vents with doors and front litter/moisture dams. Prices are wholesale cost. I also have new incandescent fixtures for each. Will sell individual units for above prices or all for $1,200. Bob Krause, 224-875-0090, robertkrause@aol.com Also have various aquariums, new screen covers etc.

For sale: Neodesha cages, with 2' dams. Have four 36" with single piece plate glass and aluminum top guide, asking $50 ea. Have six 48" with two piece plate glass and aluminum top guide, asking $120 ea. Never exposed to sunlight. None previously used to house animals. Ben Entwisle, Entwisleassoc@aol.com, (r) 815-838-2871, (o) 815-838-1200, (c) 815-685-2740.

For sale: Well started 2008 C.H. Sri Lankan stars, leopard tortoises and pancake tortoises. All captive-hatched by us and eating great. Stars are $450 each, with temperature-sexed pairs from unrelated females available. Leopards are $125 each and pancakes are $350. Contact Jim or Kirsten Kranz at 262-654-6303 or e-mail KKranz1@wi.rr.com.

For sale: Trophy quality jungle carpet, diamond-jungle, and jaguar carpet pythons. Website: moreliapython.googlepages.com E-mail: junglejohn@tds.net

For sale: Well started spider morph ball pythons (*Python regius*) available for free delivery in the Chicagoland area—males, $350. Also available are high-contrast, Sarawak locality and Walnut × Sarawak pairing Borneo pythons (*Python breitensteini*). Pricing is based on male sex with $50 more for females, if available: 2007 high-contrast, $150; 2007 Sarawak, $175; 2006 Sarawak,$200, 2007 Walnut × Sarawak (melanistic Borneos), $125. All feeding on frozen thawed adult mice and/or rats. Shipping available as an additional cost, if needed. Details and helpful info on my website at www.richcrowley reptiles.com Contact Rich Crowley at 708-646-4058 or email pogona31@yahoo.com.

For sale: I am continuing to pare down my collection. I am selling my one-year-old male Mandarin ratsnake with a gorgeous darker pattern for $300. Please contact me at (773) 403-4680 or mroconnoDVM@gmail.com if you would like to see pictures or purchase him.

Internship available: The Kentucky Reptile Zoo, a nonprofit organization, is seeking student interns for the 2008 season. The zoo is an educational exhibit, venom production and research facility located near Kentucky's Red River Gorge and Natural Bridge State Park. The intern will assist in the captive maintenance of the zoo's reptile collection, collect admissions to the exhibit, give interpretive talks and interact with the public, assist with educational outreach programs, and perform other duties as assigned. In addition, the intern will be responsible for the completion of at least one herpetological research project. The intern will **not** be involved in the handling of any venomous species. Desirable qualifications include a willingness to handle snakes and other reptiles on a daily basis, ability to communicate effectively with people, writing skills, orientation to details, and self-motivation. The intern will be required to work Saturday and Sunday, with days off during the week. Students majoring in the biological or natural sciences are preferred. Interns must be either college students or recent graduates. Former interns have arranged for academic credit. Benefits include experience with one of the most extensive and diverse collection of snakes in the United States, housing, and $55/week to cover expenses. Interns have been successful in finding zookeeper positions: over 95% hire rate! Personal transportation is recommended. A valid driver's license is required. Starting dates are flexible, but a minimum of three months (September–November) is required. Deadline is July 1. To apply, send a cover letter, resume, transcript, and at least 2 (preferably 3) references to: Kristen Wiley, Internship Coordinator, Kentucky Reptile Zoo, 200 L&E Railroad, Slade, KY 40376 or email to: reptilezoo@bellsouth.net.

Costa Rica Nature's Spectacles Wildlife Tour, October 9–24, 2008: Watch as hundreds of olive ridley sea turtles come ashore to lay their eggs. Observe tens of thousands of broad-winged hawks, Swainson's hawks, turkey vultures, ospreys, and other raptors on their southward migration. Glide in a silent, electric motor-powered boat through the watery wilderness of Tortuguero in search of caiman, American crocodiles, black river turtles, eyelash vipers, and howler monkeys, among much other wildlife. Look for green iguanas, boas, coatis, and sloths in lush, lowland tropical rainforests. All of these experiences and more await you on this unique tour. An expert, bilingual, Costa Rican naturalist guide will accompany us throughout as well as specialist local guides at each locale. Enjoy charming accommodations in lovely natural settings and delicious cuisine. Maximum group size is 16. The land cost for this exciting 16-day tour is $3995 which includes all meals, lodging, guiding, national park fees and extensive pre-departure information. The tour price includes a $300 contribution to the Chicago Herpetological Society for all CHS members, friends, and relatives who go. International airfare is not included. For a detailed itinerary, please email William Turner of Nature Down Under at toursbyturner@aol.com, call (303) 795-5128 or mail a request to 7395 S. Downing Circle W.; Centennial, CO 80122.

Herp tours: **Madagascar—Tortoise Tour** & **Chameleon Tour** seeking adventurous members for January–February 2009. The goal of the tortoise tour, to be co-led by **Peter Pritchard** of the Chelonian Research Institute and **Bill Love**, will be to see all native species in the wild and record various aspects of their lives photographically. The later chameleon tour, co-led by **Mike Monge** of FL Chams and **Bill Love**, will focus on panther chameleons, trying to find and photograph as many of the color morphs as possible in the wild. Details are at Blue Chameleon Ventures' site at: www.bluechameleon.org.

Herp tours: The beautiful Amazon! Costa Rica from the Atlantic to the Pacific! Esquinas Rainforest Lodge, the Osa Peninsula, Santa Rosa National Park, and a host of other great places to find herps and relax. Remember, you get what you pay for, so go with the best! GreenTracks, Inc. offers the finest from wildlife tours to adventure travel, led by internationally acclaimed herpers and naturalists. Visit our website <http://www.greentracks.com> or call (800) 892-1035, E-mail: info@greentracks.com

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News and Announcements

These are the people and organizations, in no particular order, that made ReptileFest 2008 possible. If you're not on this list, we apologize, but we tried to include everyone.

Gary Kostka, Karen Bielski, the Hoppenrath family, the Naue family, Dick Buchholz, Deb Krohn and her mom, Joey Robinson and his mom Gayle, Kira Geselowitz, Dan Nathan, Josh Chernoff, Brian Duracka and friend, Rob Carmichael, Miller Ray, Jenny and Ralf Vollman, Christina Ninedorf, the Murphy family, Jim Foster, Mike Scott, Brad Trost, Marybeth Trilling, Bob Hilger and family and friends, Todd and Liz Phipps, Sammy Velazquez, Elizabeth Woolridge, Cathy Kassenoff, Quinn Minear with his dad Greg and brother CJ, Ashleigh Fischer, Adam Walker, Jason Hood, Bruce Lampson, Nick Rich, Michelle Nielson and her helpers, Zorina Banas, Matt Campbell, Cindy and Brian Rampacek, Nick D'Andrea, Kerry Hagy, Gavin Brink, the Christianson family, Phil Drajeske, Ben Entwhistle, Dotty Humbert, the Woolridge family, Bud Wagner, Teresa Savino, Kerry Hagy, Molly Carlson, Blaise and Matt Filippini, Jack Schoenfelder, the Sullivan family, Nancy Kloskowski, Janice Kucera, the Bavirsha family, Jane Billette, Stephanie Beiser, Jen Periat, Desiree Wong, Mike Dloogatch, Andy Malawy, Linda Malawy, Jim Thompson, Steve Brown, Larence Huddleston, Don Wheeler, Bill Peterson, Brian Suson, Jim Nesci, Kat Blanton, John Bailey, Andy Sagan, the Nash family, the Bigelow family, John Driscoll, Lindsay Williams, Alexander Kislaitis, Erik Williams and Zoe Magierek, Caleb Gordon and family, Dane McKittrick, Chris Palmer, Rich Crowley, Mark Seeger, Rob Carmichael, Jake Behrens, Leo Schliecher of Reptile Wearables, Chad and Nanette Gaines of Reptile Emporium, Bob and Sheri Ashley of ECO Wear, Reptiques owner Jack Schoenfelder, Kurt Lantz of the Rep Room, Jason Sweigart of Classic Dumerils, Zoomed's Phil Gross and his fiance, the Brookfield Zoo, Project Exploration, Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, Darrell Senneke of the World Chelonian Trust, the Michigan Herpetological Society, including but not limited to Eric Tobin, Jim Shearer, John Kline and many others, the Cosley Zoo, The Grove, the Little Red Schoolhouse, Springbrook Nature Center, Shedd Aquarium, the Wildlife Discovery Center, Todd Gray, Byron de la Navarre, Matt O'Connor, Steve Barten, Gery Herrmann, Willowbrook Wildlife Center, DuPage County Forest Preserve, the Benito Juarez High School students, Luis Schwichtenberg, Jose De Jesus, Heriberto Quiroz, Lauren Ocon, and Jose Perez III, and the University of Illinois gang led by Bill Bavirsha and Kyle Hermann.

We know we've missed someone. We know how much work everyone contributed and if you're not listed here it's because we simply couldn't find a comprehensive list of all the participants. Maybe next year someone can volunteer to keep track so that we can be sure to thank everyone that is due. Just know that your efforts produced the best 'Fest yet.

THANKS!

Now get ready for next year.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Chicago Herpetological Society will be held at 7:30 P.M., Wednesday, May 28, at the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, Cannon Drive and Fullerton Parkway, in Chicago. **Kevin Messenger**, a vet tech from Raleigh, North Carolina, will speak to us about the "Herpetofauna of Shennongjia National Reserve, Hubei Province, China ." Kevin is a graduate from NC State University, receiving his B.S. in zoology in May 2006. Three days after graduating he was on a plane to China for four months to study herps in a remote region of central China. His job was to survey the 800,000-acre forests of Shennongjia National Reserve; a location that previously had never been surveyed for herps. His talk will primarily be a slide show of some of the amazing animals from this region, interspersed with a few graphs and notes on his results.

Our popular **Show & Tell** meeting will take place on June 25 this year. All members are encouraged to bring a favorite animal and to be prepared to come up on stage and tell us something about the animals they have brought.

The regular monthly meetings of the Chicago Herpetological Society take place at Chicago's newest museum — the **Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum**. This beautiful new building is at Fullerton Parkway and Cannon Drive, directly across Fullerton from the Lincoln Park Zoo. Meetings are held the last Wednesday of each month, from 7:30 P.M. through 9:30 P.M. Parking is free on Cannon Drive. A plethora of CTA buses stop nearby.

Board of Directors Meeting

Are you interested in how the decisions are made that determine how the Chicago Herpetological Society runs? And would you like to have input into those decisions? If so, mark your calendar for the next board meeting, to be held at 7:30 P.M., June 13, in the adult meeting room on the second floor of the Schaumburg Township District Library, 130 S. Roselle Road, Schaumburg.

The Chicago Turtle Club

The monthly meetings of the Chicago Turtle Club are informal; questions, children and animals are welcome. Meetings normally take place at the North Park Village Nature Center, 5801 N. Pulaski, in Chicago. Parking is free. For more info visit the CTC website: http://www.geocities.com/~chicagoturtle.

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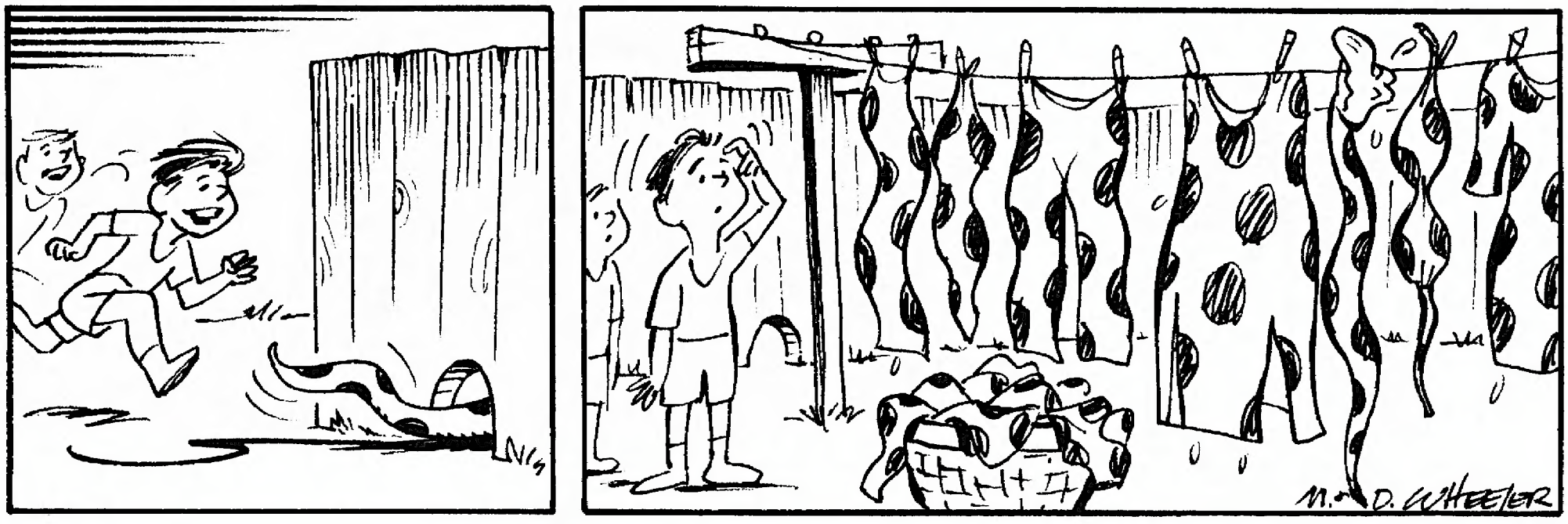

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